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9-15-1953

## Resolution 1953-01-18 Water for Wildlife

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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	Page
<b>Tuesday Morning Session, September 15, 1953</b> .....	96
Panel Theme: "Policy and Administration Problems on the State and Provincial Level." Discussion Leader—J. V. Skiff.....	96
"Better Field Administration Through In-Service and Recruit Train- ing"—Durward Robson.....	96
"Resources for the Future, Inc."—Dr. R. G. Gustavson.....	103
"The Model State Legislation for Integrated Administration of Re- newable Resources Based on a Study of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania"—William Schulz.....	109
"The Relationship Between Research and Administration"—Dr. W. J. K. Harkness.....	116
"Operating Agreements with Federal Agencies"—Clyde Patton.....	120
"Report of Federal Aid Committee and Discussion of Proposed Changes in the Federal Aid Act"—Harry D. Ruhl.....	124
<b>Afternoon Session, September 15, 1953</b> .....	128
"State's Rights in Controlling the Destiny of Interior Rivers"—Roy G. Tulane.....	128
"Report from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service"—John L. Farley .....	135
"International Cooperation on Conservation Treaties and Projects" —Wm. C. Herrington.....	141
Discussion of the Above—Bruce F. Stiles, Leader.....	145
Remarks—O. K. Kaupanger.....	146
 <b>BUSINESS SESSION</b>	
Report of Executive Committee—Ernest Swift.....	148
Report of Auditing Committee—Hayden Olds.....	149
Report of Time and Place Committee—Harold Titus.....	150
Report of Resolutions Committee—Bruce Stiles.....	151
Report of Nominating Committee—George Davis.....	170
Installation of Officers.....	171
Adjournment .....	172
Officers, 1953-1954.....	5
Past Presidents.....	5
History—Meeting Places and Dates.....	6
Convention Registration List.....	173
Number of Registrations by States and Provinces.....	182
Association Membership List, Governmental and Associate Members.....	183
Committees for 1953 As Appointed by President Chester S. Wilson.....	190

## **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

### **WATER FOR WILDLIFE**

Whereas, The use of water for fish, wildlife, and recreational needs is not yet legally recognized as a "beneficial use" in many states and provinces, and, with the constantly increasing demands on water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses, including the rapid expansion of sprinkler and other modern irrigation systems, water requirements will increase to the exclusion of fisheries, wildlife and recreational needs unless appropriate long-term water use policies are adopted and legislation is enacted on the national, state and provincial level in all parts of the continent:

Therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953, that this association reaffirms and expands its previous recommendations on this subject, and urges that the respective federal governments establish comprehensive, long-term water use policies without delay, and that the several states and provinces which lack adequate legislation on the subject take appropriate action immediately to assure proper recognition of the use of water for fish, wildlife, and recreation needs, both currently and for the future.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2**

### **WATER POLICY**

Be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953, that this association gives all possible support to future appropriation bills providing for a rapidly accelerated program for gathering, interpreting, and distributing basic water data by qualified federal agencies, either independently or in cooperation with the states or local government units. Further, that the urgent need for placing emphasis on fact gathering ahead of action programs should be recognized by the federal government in the planning of programs and projects affecting public waters.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 3**

### **USE OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS AND OTHER PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR GRAZING OR OTHER PRIVATE PURPOSES**

Resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention assembled at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953:

We reaffirm our support of the fundamental principle that the public lands, forests, and other resources of the nation should be administered primarily for the benefit of all the people of the country, and that the public interest in these resources should in all cases be deemed paramount and controlling. We therefore declare that in all legislation by Congress and all administrative policies, regulations, and practices dealing with such resources certain propositions should govern as follows.

(1) No private use of such resources should be permitted so as to hamper or curtail the protection or management thereof in the public interest.

(2) In cases involving the use of national forest lands or other public lands for grazing or other private uses, we oppose any provisions for appeals to the courts or other measures for review of administrative decisions other than those provided by administrative regulations or the administrative procedures act. Granting to a special class of users such as grazing permittees rights of appeal not given to others cannot be justified on any grounds of public interest. We believe that the rights of grazing permittees and other private users can be fully protected by simple and speedy administrative review procedures wherever necessary, and that provisions for court appeals, no matter how limited, are unnecessary for the protection of such rights and will delay and hamper the administration of the public resources in the public interest.

(3) In all legislation and all administrative policies, regulations, and practices dealing with grazing or other private use of public lands or other resources, the public interests in waters, forests, wildlife, recreation, and other matters of public concern should receive full recognition, and all administrative advisory boards concerned with such matters should include adequate representation of all such public interests.

(4) We recognize that such bills as H.R. 6787, S. 2548, and other measures relating to the use of national forest lands or other public resources for grazing or other private purposes may or may not have worthy objectives, but we oppose all such measures unless framed in accordance with the foregoing propositions.